ROOM 301 CARBONDALE CITY HALL RESTORED

On January 28, 1982, Carbondale City Council granted permission to the Carbondale restoration committee, now known as the Carbondale Historical Society, to use Room 301 Carbondale City Hall as a base of operations for the work of the group. In exchange for permission to use that room (the tower room on the third floor), the Historical Society agreed to restore that room at its own expense.

Accordingly, the Historical Society began the restoration of Room 301 on November 26, 1982. On February 20, 1983, the room was completely restored and opened to the public, with appropriate rededication ceremonies.

At those rededication ceremonies, the president of the Historical Society, S. Robert Powell, welcomed the 40 persons who gathered in Room 301 for the event. In his remarks, Powell stated that the restoration of Room 301, under the technical direction of Russell T. Powell, was carried out primarily by seven people, namely: John V. Buberniak, Jean Colville, Jane Dailey, Russell T. Powell, S. Robert Powell, William R. Powell, and Robert J. Tomaine. Other persons who assisted in the restoration are: Rosemary and Phil Heth and their children Debby and Danny, Scott Leonard and Helen L. (Russell) Powell.

When Carbondale City Hall was opened in 1894, S. Robert Powell pointed out, Room 301 was rented from the city by Samuel Sheldon Jones, Alderman from the Second Ward. Alderman Jones and his wife, the former Maggie Gillespie Russell, and their two children, Eleanor Pritchard Jones and James Russell Jones, resided at 14 Darte Avenue, in the house erected in the mid-nineteenth century by Colonel Alfred Darte. An early twentieth-century enlarged photograph (a "crayon portrait") of Alderman Jones was shown to the opening day audience by S. Robert Powell.

Many individuals and organizations donated materials to the Historical Society for the restoration of Room 301. Roy Crocker, of Crocker's Paint & Paper Store, donated five gallons of paint, as well as paint brushes. Ken and Jean Colville donated new window shades and draperies for the room. The draperies will be sewn by Mrs. Robert DeGrazia. The